

Report: The Second International Laayoune Forum on Biosaline Agriculture (LAFOBA2)

The Second International Laayoune Forum on Biosaline Agriculture (LAFOBA2) was held from June 14 to 16 in 2022.. This e-conference was organized jointly by the African Sustainable Agriculture Research Institute (ASARI), Mohammed VI Polytechnic University (UM6P) and Phosboucraa foundation in partnership with the OCP foundation and the International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA). The Forum was organized in view of enormous impact soil and water salinization has on ecosystems, agriculture, livelihoods and food security worldwide. It is important to clearly map the areas already affected by salinity or at risk on a global scale and develop and implement strategies and practices to effectively and efficiently address these effects. The forum was also a continuation of the previous successful First International Laayoune Forum on Biosaline Agriculture, as salinity still affects many aspects of human life and the concept for the use of saline water for irrigation to increase food production has been advocated by many research scientists, organizations, institutions and authorities for the last more than five decades.

The forum looked at the progress that has been made in salinity management at national, regional and global levels. As practice and policy on salinity management have been further advanced, the forum benefited from a wide range of stakeholders, including scientists, policymakers and experts. It served as a platform for exchange of knowledge on the latest advancements and work on salinity.

Salinity management and effective use of saline soil and water resources for food, feed and biofuel production the overarching objective of the forum.

The forum addressed the following broad objectives:

- to share examples of successful strategies, policies, measures, projects, and case studies to adapt to and mitigate salinization around the world for current and future scenarios considering climate change
- to form linkages and partnerships between various national, regional, and international initiatives targeting salinization
- to facilitate dialogue between policymakers, donors and development agencies, scientists and experts
- to develop joint proposals of action at national, African, and international levels

For the conference, SALAD has contributed by conducting and presenting the following research

- An agronomic assessment for intercropping salt sensitive and salt tolerant species in a saline hydroponic medium.

- Chemical Seed Priming With Zinc Sulfate Improve Quinoa Tolerance to Salinity at Germination Stage.
- Four species with crop potential in saline environments: the SALAD project case study.
- How does organic amendment improve quinoa growth and productivity under salinity conditions?.
- Leaf-level physiological responses of *Lattuga sativa* intercropped with *Salsola soda* in biosaline agriculture.
- Methodologies for understanding the network relationships of the external actors in SALAD Project
- Monitoring root-felt salt accumulation in Quinoa & New-Zealand Spinach with rhizoslides.
- The emergence of a governance landscape for saline agriculture.
- From experiment to market development. A case study of saline agriculture from the Island of Terschelling, The Netherlands.